

Cote 43

Chapter 43 You're Next

At first, Kaoru wanted to refuse Horikita Manabu. After all, this wasn't a position you could just force on someone because you wanted them to take it. Standing in front of so many people, it would inevitably look like some kind of internal appointment. How was he supposed to face his colleagues after this?

But seeing how serious and earnest Horikita Manabu looked, Kaoru could only nod in agreement.

"Huh? You're making a first-year the vice president?"

Tachibana Akane, standing nearby, was dumbfounded. Her confusion was shared by almost everyone present. A total newcomer, just arrived, and already being made a student council vice president?

Honestly, this was even their first time meeting him, so of course everyone was shocked.

"The vice president position has been vacant anyway. Letting Mitoma fill it works just fine."

Horikita Manabu's tone was calm. As the president, he could directly appoint someone as vice president, and no one else actually had the right to object. Tachibana Akane knew this perfectly well; she just couldn't figure out why.

Traditionally, the student council had two vice presidents, but for some reason, Horikita Manabu had never appointed a second one.

Other than Nagumo Miyabi, the vice president position had been vacant for quite a while. They didn't expect Horikita Manabu to appoint a newcomer as vice president today. Joining the student council and getting promoted to an executive position on the same day, and not just any position, but vice president—that's insanely fast.

"If it's a newcomer that the president thinks highly of, I believe they're more than qualified for the role." The treasurer, Fujimaki Hiroki, smiled kindly as he spoke.

The second-year members all turned to look at Nagumo Miyabi, who just smiled in response.

"Since it's Horikita-senpai decision, I don't mind. Honestly, I personally agree with it quite a bit."

As he spoke, Nagumo Miyabi met Kaoru Mitoma gaze. His smile grew even wider, exuding a calm confidence. But in Kaoru Mitoma eyes, this vice president was clearly provoking him. It was as if he was saying, "I'll deal with you sooner or later, but for now, enjoy your moment." Tsk, you're next.

Kaoru Mitoma casually looked away, not caring at all about the vice president. Whether he cared or not was his own business, but Katsuragi Kohei and Ichinose Honami couldn't help showing looks of utter shock.

Especially Katsuragi Kohei—he'd already thought it was unbelievable that Kaoru Mitoma not only joined the student council, but even forked out a million personal points to get him in. That alone was jaw-dropping. But he hadn't expected Horikita Manabu to value him so much, making him vice president right from the start. The only position higher than that was president!

The more he thought about it, the more confused Katsuragi Kohei felt. No matter how he looked at it, there didn't seem to be anything Kaoru Mitoma needed his help with. What exactly is this so-called request?

"These next few days, Mitoma, you'll stick with me. Ichinose and Katsuragi will be handled by Tachibana Akane," Horikita Manabu assigned.

In reality, since the school basically took care of all the main student activities, the student council main job was to mediate disputes between students and manage the various clubs and such.

Yeah, no matter how you look at it, this student council is definitely a lot smaller than those at other high schools. They probably don't even have a Disciplinary Committee. After all, there are cameras everywhere on campus, and he doubt any student would dare break the school rules.

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Today was just for introductions, so Horikita Manabu didn't arrange anything else. Once most people had left, he turned to the only person who stayed behind.

"What do you think of the second-year members?"

"Nagumo has a lot of control over his year. Those members basically follow his lead," Kaoru Mitoma said.

"But, President, did you keep me here just to ask that?"

If Horikita Manabu hadn't spoken up and asked him to stay, he would've already followed in Ichinose Honami footsteps by now. Hearing his tone, Tachibana Akane felt a bit annoyed. First-years really are so rude to their seniors!

Horikita Manabu was silent for a moment. "Sorry, I didn't discuss the vice president thing with you beforehand."

Tachibana Akane was stunned. What was going on?

Her president was actually apologizing to someone?

And he was apologizing to a newcomer?

"Even though it's a bit sudden, it doesn't really affect me. The fact that you agreed to let me join the student council means you think highly of me. Nagumo will probably be interested in me too."

Kaoru Mitoma could tell what Horikita Manabu was thinking.

Actually, he'd already had a bit of friction with Nagumo Miyabi, and being named vice president today just added fuel to the fire. Of course, Horikita Manabu didn't know any of this. He just wanted Kaoru Mitoma to rise up quickly and help distract Nagumo Miyabi.

Even though he thought Nagumo Miyabi taking over was inevitable, having Kaoru Mitoma around in the future would at least slow down Nagumo reforms.

"Among the second-years, Mizowaki and Tonokawa are in Nagumo class and are his most trusted lackeys. Kiriama and the others are from different classes."

Horikita Manabu took out some documents he'd prepared in advance and gestured for Kaoru Mitoma to take them back and look them over. Kaoru Mitoma glanced through them. They were basically a list of Nagumo Miyabi close allies in the student council—the very same members Horikita Manabu had just mentioned.

"Even though I work with Nagumo in the student council, I don't know much about his situation among the second-years. But there are still students in that year who see him as an enemy."

"Who?"

"Sorry, I can't tell you that name right now. He's really wary of Nagumo, and if he gets exposed because of this, things could get out of hand." Kaoru Mitoma didn't know much about Nagumo Miyabi either, but monarchs usually don't treat rebels kindly—most of the time, it's the death penalty. Well, in this school, that probably means expulsion, right?

Kaoru Mitoma thought for a moment, then casually asked Horikita Manabu, "If someone does something that goes against the school rules, what kind of punishment would the school give?"

The question caught Horikita Manabu off guard for a second, but then he replied, "Depends on the situation, but usually it's a suspension."

"Can I use my personal points to get out of punishment?" Kaoru Mitoma continued to ask.

Horikita Manabu expression grew even stranger, and he just came out and said, "What exactly are you trying to do?"

"Nothing much, I just wanted to know in advance." Kaoru Mitoma asked again, "I have an idea, and I want to ask the president for a favor."

"You really don't hold back, do you!" Tachibana Akane couldn't take it anymore, puffing up her cheeks and glaring at Kaoru Mitoma.

Giving you the position of vice president isn't enough, and now you want the student council president to help you out too?

Isn't that a bit much?

Kaoru Mitoma glanced at her. Honestly, this upperclassman was pretty cute, with her hair tied up in a bun that made her face look even more delicate, full of the energy and liveliness you'd expect from a high school girl. But she seemed a little full of herself, probably because she was an upperclassman.

"What a joke, I should just pin her down on the bed and teach her a lesson"

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Kaoru Mitoma was a little surprised there's a wish for her too.

"I want to hear what you want to do first."

Horikita Manabu was pretty calm about it. As the student council president, his stance was definitely on the conservative side—he didn't want to see too many changes at this school. He didn't agree with Nagumo Miyabi absolute meritocracy, that extreme individualism.

He didn't like that approach at all. Because that would just make the competition between students even more intense, and even within the same class, people would start competing against each other.

But being conservative didn't mean Horikita Manabu couldn't be flexible. If the risk wasn't too big, he was willing to help Kaoru Mitoma out a little.

Yeah, after all, if i helps you this time, next time it'll be your turn to help me.